ENGLAND

Iceland reflections

Despite our notions of wilderness and remoteness, Iceland is a very accessible country. At times we simply drove up to an attraction, got out of our car and after a short walk, were at the attraction: glacier, waterfall, boiling mud pool or geyser. Despite its long history Iceland appears to be very modern. Many buildings are really out there (churches in particular). The houses are mainly corrugated iron or rendered brick. It has one of the highest ratios of broadband access to population, in the world. The roads are really good, Even the unmade ones are well formed. The weather is extremely changeable - sunny one moment, freezing cold with biting wind the next. The highest temperature ever in Reykjavik was 26. Anecdotally it appeared to me that one car in 5 is being driven a local inhabitant - hire cars proliferate in the summer. The total Icelandic population is small - only 320k. Even their second largest city is only 17k. Villages are tiny. Iceland is extremely expensive - hire cars, accommodation,

Going Home

After dropping the car off at the airport we rode our bikes the 5kms back to our guesthouse. Packing our gear back into our bags proved somewhat difficult - it never fits back as easily. We made a "make do" meal from leftovers. Our morning flight was 7.45am so I was determined to get an early night but Heather just had to watch Sleepy Hollow (Johnny Depp) on TV which finished at 11.30 - far too late for me. Nevertheless this morning we found ourselves at Keflavik airport. It was amazingly full of people because Iceland is a very popular layover for americans flying to Europe. We had to place our bike bags on the "odd size" check-in. The line was huge. It looked like everyone had decided they had odd size luggage (they don't weigh it you see). Icelandic Air is a low cost carrier. We had to pay for food (and headsets if you wanted one). Luckily we still had Icelandic krona left in your wallet.

We had a little bit of stress when we arrived at Heathrow airport because one of our bike bags went missing. Heather miraculously found it at another baggage ramp all on its own in a corner. Weird. We are now in our budget accommodation

ENGLISH PUB

After complaining about the cost of living in UK at the start of our trip we are tonight enjoying good old english cuisine at a very affordable price. So different from very expensive Iceland.

PLANE SPOTTING Every 3 minutes a plane takes off. Heathrow is very busy. Great for plane spotters but not for us.

Departing Europe

SUCCESSFUL TRIPPERS

THATCHING IN HEATHROW

CLASSIC FRONT DOOR

STRAW DUCKS